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SUBJECT: US AND ITALY MOVE AHEAD ON G-8 INTERNATIONAL
CONSTABULARY TRAINING CENTER

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Summary

1. A State/DOD delegation, led by Acting DAS for Regional Security (PM) Elena Kim-Mitchell, visited Rome and Vicenza on July 19-21 to discuss the U.S.-Italian joint initiative for a G-8 sponsored Center of Excellence for Stability Police Units (COESPU). The delegation met with the MFA and Carabinieri in Rome and the director of the Carabinieri training facility in Vicenza. The MFA expressed strong support for the initiative, noted that resources (to bring trainees) would likely be needed, and agreed to work with the U.S. to identify and reach out to countries likely to be interested in developing gendarme units for international peace support operations (PSOs). The Carabinieri were enthusiastic about hosting the COESPU, and proposed to train approximately 3,000 trainers over the next five years through "train the trainer" programs and pre-deployment training for gendarme units to participate in PSOs. The existing Carabinieri training facility at Vicenza is completely ready to house and instruct this number of trainees. The U.S. and Italians agreed that the Carabinieri will prepare training curricula, terms of reference, a budget, and a project proposal identifying resource gaps for circulation among G-8 partners in September. Italy agreed to host a seminar to review the COESPU's training program, which could include participation by G-8 partners, relevant international organizations, and European Gendarmerie countries in Fall 2004. End Summary.

Background: Sea Island

2. As part of the June 2004 Sea Island Summit, G-8 partners addressed the need for more gendarme-like forces in PSOs. G-8 member states committed to support Italy in establishing the COESPU to foster the development of international gendarme/constabulary peacekeeping forces.

Follow-up: U.S. Delegation to Rome and Vicenza

3. On July 19-21, a State/DOD delegation traveled to Italy to consult with the MFA and Carabinieri on their current plans and begin working out the details of the COEPSU. Delegation members accompanying Acting DAS Kim-Mitchell included Rachel Featherstone (PM/PPA), Tabitha Oman (EUR/PGI), and Col. Dallas Brown (Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations and Low Intensity

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Conflict). Army Attache Col. Elliot Rosner and Pol-Mil Officer Lee R. Brown joined the delegation from Embassy Rome.

4. The team met for an in-depth discussion on July 19 with Giampiero Massolo, Director of the Italian MFA's Multilateral and Political Affairs Directorate. Also present at the MFA meeting were heads of relevant offices in the Italian MFA and MOD, including G-8 Office Head Giampaolo Cantini, who has the lead for the MFA on the COESPU project. The Carabinieri Vice Commander-General Salvatore Fenu also received the delegation on July 19 at the Carabinieri Headquarters. Col. Domenico Libertini led the technical discussions that followed on the COESPU project for the Carabinieri. On July 21, the team traveled to Vicenza to see the prospective location for the COESPU at the Carabinieri's training facility.

Agreement on Approach

6. The Italian interlocutors confirmed that the COESPU will be located at the Carabinieri facility in Vicenza. Both the MFA and Carabinieri expressed strong support for Italy's lead in the initiative, which coincides well with plans to host the European Gendarme Force headquarters at the Vicenza facility.

7. Carabinieri, MFA, and MOD officials stressed that the COESPU enjoys support at the highest levels in the Italian government and military. Indeed, the productive spirit of

all meetings epitomized the close relationship of the joint U.S.-Italian effort. There were few, if any, significant differences of opinion about facts or goals between Italian and U.S. interlocutors. For this reason, the particular points of U.S.-Italian agreement set out below will appear by topics, followed by a summary of the next steps to be taken.

Target Number: 3000 Over 5 Years

18. Though the G-8 set its headline goal of training 75,000 military peacekeeping troops by 2010, it set no headline goal for numbers of gendarme troops trained. U.S. and Italian colleagues agreed on a prospective COESPU target figure of training about 3000 trainers over a five-year period, or roughly 600 per year. Logistically speaking, the Vicenza facility could easily manage such a figure.

19. GOI officials agreed that the number of gendarme trainers ultimately receiving instruction at the COESPU should depend more on the availability of qualified trainees than on prescribed numerical goals. Early success will be crucial in proving gendarme forces can play a useful role in initial PSOs and encouraging countries to participate in the training program. It was anticipated that there might be fewer than 600 trained the first year, but that the goal of 3,000 over 5 years would undoubtedly be met. MFA officials took the point that quality will be far more important than the absolute numbers of trainees -- especially at the start.

Terms of Reference

10. Carabinieri Col. Libertini agreed to provide the MFA and State with a detailed project proposal along with a shorter document containing provisional Terms of Reference for the COESPU. This information could then be used to "market" the COESPU with prospective participating and contributing countries. Ms. Kim-Mitchell outlined four general U.S. goals, which the Italians readily agreed would characterize the aims of the center:

- Fostering interoperability between constabulary units of different countries.
- Fostering interoperability between constabulary units and military units; and between gendarme units and police.
- Providing pre-deployment training -- i.e., training and preparation for specific peace support missions.
- Serving as a repository for doctrine relating to the constabulary dimension of peacekeeping operations, promoting consistency and commonality with the NATO and EU gendarme/constabulary doctrine.

Recruitment of Trainees

11. U.S. and Italian colleagues agreed that COESPU,s focus should be global. The goal for the COESPU should be to develop the strongest possible peacekeeping gendarme capability, taking best advantage of available capabilities. It will be important to show qualitative success during the center,s first year in order to ensure support and attract more countries in the future. The U.S. and Italy will work together to identify countries with the political will and institutional capability to field gendarme peacekeeping forces.

The COESPU Facility

12. The delegation agreed that the facility in Vicenza is already essentially prepared to house the COESPU. The compound was extensively modified and modernized to suit the Carabinieri,s training needs and is a perfect facility for the COESPU.

13. The Vicenza center will also serve as the home for the soon-to-be-launched European Gendarmerie HQ. The Italian, French, Dutch, Portuguese, and Spanish governments have agreed in principle to create such a force, which would be

used for peacekeeping purposes as part of the EU,s European Security and Defense Policy (ESDP) and coordinated with NATO in accordance with the Berlin Plus agreements. The five countries will sign the formal agreement creating the European Gendarmerie in September 2005. The HQ staff would consist of 30-40 gendarme officers from all five countries. The Carabinieri look forward to constructive interaction between the European Gendarmerie HQ and the COESPU at the Vicenza facility.

Curriculum and Staff

14. The COESPU training courses will not only consist of train-the-trainer-courses, but also courses for military commanders and pre-deployment training. The Carabinieri are currently drafting a curriculum for the first COESPU course for mid-level trainers (approximately 4-6 weeks long), to be offered in early 2005. Ms. Kim-Mitchell emphasized that the curriculum should include segments on human rights, the Rule of Law, trafficking in persons, and working with NGOs, and left copies of curriculum used in U.S. peacekeeping programs for informational purposes.

15. The Carabinieri will provide teaching and administrative staff to start up the courses at the COESPU, but it will be critical to the ultimate success of the COESPU to have G-8 members such as the U.S., France, and other interested nations and international organizations also contribute personnel to the staff.

Resources Required -----

16. The Carabinieri were not concerned with finding resources for the COESPU facility as they believe that is in good shape. However, the MFA raised the issue of resources with the delegation and stressed that Italy's contribution to the COESPU will be limited to providing the facility along with training and administrative personnel. Ms. Kim-Mitchell suggested to the MFA that U.S. resources might best be used to help support bringing students to the center. She requested that the MFA and Carabinieri create a list of resource gaps that need to be addressed, for support by the other G-8 members.

Next Steps -----

17. The Carabinieri suggested that the first class of the COESPU could begin as soon as early 2005. Prior to that, the concept needs to be refined, the curriculum needs to be finalized, G-8 and other partners need to be invited to provide support, and the first groups of trainees need to be identified.

18. The U.S. and Italian colleagues agreed on the following steps to reach those goals:

-- The Carabinieri will produce a brief descriptive document before the end of August with terms of reference and an outline of the initial curriculum. This brochure, after being cleared by the U.S., will be used to both solicit contributions for the center and to solicit personnel to be trained from selected countries.

-- The Carabinieri will draft a general project proposal for the COESPU for circulation among G-8 partners in September (following U.S. clearance). The Carabinieri will outline specific gaps that should be addressed by contributing partners so that when the proposal is passed around to the other G-8 members, they can be addressed.

-- State and the MFA will work together to identify and select target countries capable of providing qualified trainees for the first few classes in 2005.

-- State and the MFA will coordinate an approach to the selected target countries.

-- The Carabinieri will develop the curriculum for the 2005 training program, adopting standards from MSU training and including parameters for levels of competency of incoming students. Doctrine will be developed in keeping with EU standards and adapted to NATO standards as those are developed.

-- The Carabinieri will produce a list of essential equipment needed for training for gendarme operations in a foreign environment.

-- The Carabinieri will calculate an administrative and material budget along with "tuition" (cost per head) for trainees.

-- The Carabinieri will host a seminar in Fall 2004 for representatives from countries with established gendarme forces and from multilateral and regional organizations involved in peacekeeping operations.

Brindisi Visit -----

19. In support of the G-8 initiative to establish a transportation and logistics support arrangement, the delegation traveled to Brindisi on July 20 to visit the UN Logistics Base (UNLB). The delegation was very impressed

with the facilities and took away many lessons learned from the UNLB,s experiences.

Comment

120. The MFA and Carabinieri were both very supportive of the concept and are eager to move forward. However, there was an obvious lack of communication between the MFA and the Carabinieri on the COEPSU project and it will be critical to keep both of them informed and involved as the project moves forward. End comment.

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